

EDUCATION/PUBLIC OUTREACH (E/PO) PROGRAM

E.1 Scope of Program

The policy of NASA's Office of Space Science (OSS) continues to be to encourage strongly the participation by the space science community in education and public outreach activities with the goal of enhancing the Nation's formal education system and contributing to the broad public understanding of science, mathematics, and technology. A significant national program in space science education and outreach is now underway, and OSS's demonstrated contributions to education and outreach have now become an important part of the broader justification for the public support of space science (for further details open "*Education and Public Outreach*" on the OSS homepage at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov>).

Since 1998, when it started to offer the opportunity to propose E/PO activities in conjunction with its NRA's, the Office of Space Science has received many constructive comments from members of the space science community as to how to improve its efforts to involve space scientists in education and public outreach. Based on the experience of the past few years and these comments, OSS is making a number of important changes in procedure this year. In particular, for this NRA, E/PO proposals will be solicited during the Stage 2 process only from those proposers whose research proposals have been recommended for an award.

If proposers elect to write a supplemental E/PO proposal, it should be submitted along with their Stage 2 cost proposal. Instructions and guidelines for preparing such proposals and the criteria for evaluating them will be posted on the *Chandra* web site <http://cxc.harvard.edu> by July 1, 2002.

The two key documents that establish the basic policies and guidance for all OSS E/PO activities are a strategic plan, entitled *Partners in Education: A Strategy for Integrating Education and Public Outreach Into NASA's Space Science Programs* (March 1995), and an implementation plan, entitled *Implementing the Office of Space Science (OSS) Education/Public Outreach Strategy* (October 1996). Both of these documents may be obtained by selecting "Education and Public Outreach" from the OSS homepage at <http://spacescience.nasa.gov>, or by contacting Dr. Jeffrey Rosendhal, Office of Space Science, Code S, NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC 20546-0001.

The following policies and guidelines apply to the E/PO activities solicited through this NRA:

- The proposed E/PO activity is expected to have general intellectual linkage to the science objectives of its "parent" proposal and/or the science expertise of its PI;
- An E/PO activity may be funded only as an add-on to a new or an existing award for

a “parent” research proposal; therefore, the period of performance of the E/PO activity is restricted to that of its parent award although a no-cost extension of the “parent” proposal may be requested that also allows an extended period of performance for the E/PO effort;

- Up to \$15K per year may be proposed for an E/PO program, although larger budgets may be considered for a few exceptionally meritorious activities (a Budget Summary, as described in the item “Budget and Funding Information” at <http://exc.harvard.edu>, must be submitted as part of the E/PO proposal);
- PIs of two or more successful observing proposals from the same institution may choose to propose a joint E/PO program. Such combined E/PO proposals may request up to \$15k per original PI, with an institutional maximum of \$50k;
- NASA requests (but does not require) that the submitting organization waive PI labor costs and its customary overhead charges on an E/PO budget, since in many cases such activities will directly aid a local educational or public science institution, and the budget available for this OSS E/PO program is extremely limited;
- The parent research proposal may identify an additional Co-Investigator who, along with the PI, will be responsible for completing the E/PO activities (e.g., an appropriately qualified colleague from the PI institution, or from an educational institution such as a public school district, science museum, planetarium, etc.); and
- E/PO proposals will be evaluated by an appropriately qualified panel of scientific, education, and outreach personnel, and the substance of these reviews will be conveyed to the proposers in a summary report.

E.2 Proposal Criteria

For important background information in developing an E/PO proposal, OSS has developed a document entitled *Explanatory Guide to the NASA Office of Space Science Education and Public Outreach Evaluation Criteria* as a resource for proposers. This guide may be accessed via <http://spacescience.nasa.gov/education/guide.html>; navigation through this *Explanatory Guide* at its Web site is facilitated by internal active links. This Guide is not an extension of the E/PO requirements or criteria but is meant to provide an easy-to-follow introduction to this program using a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), followed by a detailed discussion of the E/PO review criteria. All proposers who are considering the submission of an E/PO proposal but who are not familiar with the specific OSS standards for E/PO activities are urged to review this *Explanatory Guide*. More specific details for the *Chandra* E/PO opportunity will be given at the *Chandra* web site <http://exc.harvard.edu>.